

## **UK Research**

### **Brief History -**

1707 - The Kingdom of England, Wales, and the Kingdom of Scotland united to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain. Queen Anne became the first monarch of the UK.

1801 - The Act of Union joined the UK and the Kingdom of Ireland. This caused the invasions of the Normans ruling Ireland, and the War of American Independence.

World War 1 - The UK joined the World War 1 on the side of the Entente Powers in order to further its goal of defeating the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and the Kingdom of Bulgaria (the Central Powers).

World War 2 - Britain declared war on Nazi Germany in 1939. The Axis Powers (Germany and its allies) were defeated by the Allies (the UK and its allies) in 1945.

19th Century and Early 20th Century - Movement for the cancellation of the Act of Union. Many campaigns failed including the one in 1912, that passed in the House of Commons but was voted out in the House of Lords. An announcement in Dublin declared "Irish Republic" and caused the Anglo - Irish War that lasted until 1921. The Anglo - Irish Treaty of 1921 was formed and 6 northern Irish counties remained part of the UK.

### **Executive Branch -**

Chief of State: Queen Elizabeth (since 6 February 1952)

Head of Government: Prime Minister David Cameron (since 11 May 2010)

The House of Commons and the House of Lords, together with the Monarch, make up Parliament. Parliament passes laws, approves taxation and debates the major issues of the day. The prime minister heads the government and appoints ministers, who head individual government departments. The government makes important decisions that affect us all - things like what is taught in schools, where motorways are built, how much tax people should pay and if more houses should be built or not. The Prime Minister helps the Government to come to an agreement on the decisions to be made. The Prime Minister also represents the UK in other countries at important events and meetings. The Queen gives a weekly audience to the Prime Minister at which she has a right and a duty to express her views on Government matters.

### **Geography -**

Location: Western Europe, islands - including the northern one-sixth of Ireland, between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea; northwest of France

Coordinates: 54 00 N, 2 00 W

### **Which Countries Are Usually Friends With The UK?**

UK has a special relationship with the US, and a close partnership with France. It shares nuclear weapons with both countries. The UK is also closely allied with the Republic of Ireland. Many Irish citizens serve in the British Army. Other close allies include the other European Union and NATO Members, Commonwealth nations, and Japan.